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EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0070

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 000139

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [UNGA](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: Greeks on Goldstone Report Follow-Up

REF: STATE 15722

CLASSIFIED BY: George Frowick, Political Counselor; REASON: 1.4(B),
(D)

11. (C) On February 25, Poloff discussed Ref points on U.S. positions on the upcoming UNGA vote on the Goldstone Report with Stelios Gavriil, MFA A6 Directorate for Arab Countries and the Middle East. Gavriil stated that Greece intended to abstain in the upcoming vote.

12. (C) According to Gavriil, Greece's abstention in the previous November 5, 2009 vote was the first time Greece had not sided with the Palestinian position, and the decision was thus warmly received by Israel. The abstention was due to two factors: 1) Greece didn't want the Goldstone issue to interfere with ongoing Middle East peace talks, and 2) Greece wanted to follow EU consensus. This time around, Greece would follow the EU majority position advocating abstention (Gavriil noted that the EU nations were split into three different camps). In addition, Greece felt that Special Envoy Mitchell's efforts were positive and did not want to distract from his progress.
SPECKHARD